

Dear Sir or Madam,

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, violates the spirit of the first ammendment, is unlawful given that they are using public airwaves to influence a very important election, and is certain to degrade the image of the United States of America when the eyes of the world will be watching this election closely.

Sinclair's actions violates the spirit of the first ammendment of our constitution, which in part protects our right to a free press. If industry or government interferes with a free press we all suffer. This is especially true when the interference is being made with a specific goal in mind of influencing the upcoming election.

I find it particularly disheartening that we could allow such a debacle to occur when we are trying to serve as an example to the rest of the world. When the world sees our press being used to influence election results, it will have a tremendous negative impact on other nations views of us. It is difficult to hold others to ethical standards when we do not hold ourselves to the same standard.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my comments. I hope that mine, along with others will lead to immediate action.

Sincerely,

Tom Richardson